

Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

www.house.gov/nancyjohnson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2005

Contact: Brian Schubert

(202) 225-4476

Johnson Secures Jobs Funds for Northwest Corner *Defense Project Will Create Jobs in Torrington*

TORRINGTON, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced she has secured nearly \$4 million in defense funding for local manufacturer Tru-Hitch, Inc., to procure its innovative heavy-lift towing device and create jobs in the Northwest Corner.

“This funding means new manufacturing jobs in the Northwest Corner,” Johnson said. “Tru-Hitch’s innovative workers manufacture an innovative product. The towing device has been an invaluable tool for our men and women in uniform operating around the world. This new funding will result in more jobs for Connecticut and continued support for our military.”

Tru-Hitch President Martin Marola said the infusion of new funds for its state-of-the-art towing equipment will allow the firm to expand its Torrington operations and hire more workers. Tru-Hitch currently employs 36 workers and has facilities in Torrington and Barkhamsted.

Johnson worked with Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Bill Young (R-FL) to secure \$3.9 million for Tru-Hitch’s Fifth Wheel Towing Device (FWTD) in the defense spending bill, which passed the House late yesterday by a 398-19 vote.

The FWTD is a hitch that gives smaller, multi-purpose vehicles the ability to tow much larger vehicles effectively and safely. This innovation saves the military from having to maintain and deploy dedicated heavy-lift tractors, increasing operational efficiency and using taxpayer dollars more wisely.

“With our device, a 15,000 pound truck can do more than a 50,000 pound wrecker,” Marola said. “Congresswoman Johnson has been our champion and has gotten the job done for Tru-Hitch and its workers. This funding will allow us to expand our operations in Torrington and continue to provide our Armed Forces the state-of-the-art equipment they need to carry out their mission.”

Tru-Hitch has delivered over 200 FWTDs to the U.S. Army and Navy in the last decade, and the device is used in 20 countries throughout the world.

###